

**This notice has been submitted to the Commerce Business Daily with a planned publish date of 03 AUGUST 2000.**

17. NOTICE OF CONTRACT ACTION (NOCA). This announcement serves as notice to all potential offerors that, on or about 18 August 2000, the Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance Integration Systems Program Office, Electronic Systems Center, Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts anticipates release of Request for Proposal F19628-00-R-0045 for the Phase I acquisition of the ADVANCE REMOTE GROUND UNATTENDED SENSORS (ARGUS) Preliminary Design/Risk Reduction (PD/RR) Program. The USAF plans to conduct the ARGUS program to address a critical Air Force requirement to detect, track, identify, and report Time Critical Targets (TCTs) such as TBM Transporter-Erector-Launchers (TEL), SA-6's, Tanks, and support vehicles. The overall objective of the ARGUS program is to initially acquire sensors, communications, mission planning tools, pre-operational checkout equipment, and remote monitoring equipment, based on the STEEL EAGLE portion of the Unattended Ground Sensors (UGS) Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration (ACTD). Initial capability will include acoustic and seismic sensors with follow-on block upgrades for additional sensor types developed through a spiral development process. The ARGUS acquisition will be conducted in two phases, Preliminary Design/Risk Reduction (PD/RR) and Engineering, Manufacturing & Development (EMD) / Production. The USAF intends to award up to three contracts for the Risk Reduction Phase and a single contract for the EMD/Production Phase. Both phases will be full and open competitions utilizing FAR Part 15. During the PD/RR phase (Phase I) the Government intends to award up to three Firm Fixed Price (FFP) contracts. Each awardee will perform the work specified in the Phase I RFP as an effort to reduce the risk of the overall program. For the EMD/Development Phase (Phase II), the Government intends to award one Cost Plus Award Fee (CPAF)/ Firm Fixed Price (FFP) contract. During the Risk Reduction Phase, the Government intends to refine and expand the information in the SOO and publish the resultant document in the EMD/Production RFP. The contracts' scope will include program risk reduction and system definition, system development, integration, installation, test, fielding, delivery and support for the objective ARGUS system. The solicitation will be made available on the Internet at the Hanscom Air Force Base Electronic Request for Proposal Bulletin Board (HERBB) Website: <http://www.herbb.hanscom.af.mil/rfp.asp> by selecting the link "Advanced Remote Ground Unattended Sensors (ARGUS)". Offerors will be provided 30 days to respond to the solicitation. Telephone requests for the solicitation will not be accepted. Firms responding to this request shall indicate whether they are a large business, small business, very small business, small-disadvantaged business, 8(a) concern, women-owned business, or HUBZone Small Business. Respondents must specify whether they are a U.S. or foreign-owned firm. Interested Contractors desiring to do business with the Air Force shall be registered in the DoD Central Contracting Reporting System. A Draft RFP for Phase I was placed on the HERBB Website on 27 July 2000. Government comments to Industry's questions on the Draft RFP are also posted to this site. This NOCA does not constitute a Request for Proposal, and it does not restrict the Government as to the ultimate acquisition approach, nor should it be construed as a commitment by the Government. An Acquisition Ombudsman, Colonel Joseph Magnone, Director,

Commander's Staff, has been appointed to hear concerns from offerors or potential offerors during proposal development. You should only contact the Ombudsman with issues or problems you cannot satisfactorily resolve with the Program Manager and/or Contracting Officer. The Ombudsman's role is to hear concerns, issues, and recommendations and communicate these to the appropriate government personnel. The Ombudsman will maintain strict confidentiality if desired. The Ombudsman does not evaluate proposals or participate in source selection. You may contact the Ombudsman at (781) 377-5106. Contractors are reminded and cautioned that only Contracting Officers are legally authorized to commit the Government. Address all questions to the Contracting Officer, Ms. Kathleen Munroe, (781) 377-3956 or the Contracts Specialist, Ms. Heidi Bosinger-Waldron (781) 377-4056.